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# EXCALIBUR

## A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE



DIRECT EDITION

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THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE Banded TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN-DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL. STAN LEE PRESENTS... EXCALIBUR!

A LONG TIME AGO,  
IN A GALAXY FAR,  
FAR AWAY...

... A LOVE  
WARRIOR  
SILENTLY  
CRIED.

THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF  
THIS WORLD HAD PRIZED  
PEACE ABOVE ALL ELSE.  
IT SEEMED THE BEST  
WAY TO LIVE TOGETHER.

INDEED,  
IT WAS...

... UNTIL THE SHAR  
GALACTIC EMPIRE  
ARRIVED.

# EXILE BOOK TWO BLIGHT AND FOE

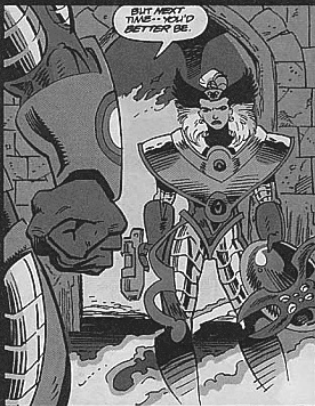
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STILL A  
LITTLE WEAK-  
KNEED,  
EH?

BEAM BACK  
ABOARD THE  
ENCRUITEMENT  
SHIP, FLEDS-  
LING, NOW.

YOU'RE  
OBVIOUSLY  
NOT READY  
FOR THIS  
YET.



"THAT WAS THE  
MOMENT I REALIZED  
I HAD TO DO SOME-  
THING--

--ANYTHING--

"--TO STOP THAT  
WARSHIP FROM  
CUTTING A LIGHT-  
YEAR-WIDE SWATH  
OF DEATH ACROSS  
THE LINNERS-- ALL  
IN THE NAME OF  
THE SHI'AR EMPIRE!

"AND THAT'S  
EXACTLY WHAT  
I--"

AAAGK!

SHUT UP,  
PRISONER!

KLUDD

YOU HAD YOUR  
TRIAL IN AGENTIA,  
AND I DON'T CARE  
WHAT YOUR STORY  
IS--

--SO  
SHUT UP!

NOW  
PREPARE TO  
BE FLUSHED--  
BOTH OF YOU!

FLUSHED?

TRANSPORTED  
MY DEAR.

WE'RE ABOUT  
TO LEAVE THE  
RELATIVE COMFORT  
OF THIS PROCESSING  
CENTER...

... TO ARRIVE  
BELOW ON KARR--  
THE ROCK WITHIN A  
WORLD. THE PRISON  
WHERE WE'LL SPEND  
THE REST OF OUR  
LIVES...



MEANWHILE, MANY  
PARSECS DISTANT...

...THE SPACESHIP  
KNOWN AS STAR-  
JAMMER JETTIONS  
ITS WASTE PRODUCTS  
BEFORE GETTING  
UNDERWAY...

...THE SHIP'S CREW APPARENTLY  
UNWARE OF TWO WOULD-BE  
PASSENGERS ARRIVING IN A  
MOST UNCONVENTIONAL  
MANNER!

WHOOO!  
ALLRIGHT--SO  
MAYBE TELEPORTING  
HERE FROM THE PRISON  
PLANET TO THE SPACE  
STATION TO THE GARBAGE  
CHUTE--MIGHT NOT HAVE  
BEEN THE GREATEST  
IDEA--

--BUT WE HAD  
NO CHOICE--WE  
HAVE TO GET THE  
STARJAMMERS TO  
HELP US RESCUE  
CERSE!



FOR ONCE,  
ELF, I AGREE  
WITH YOU!





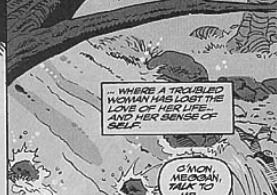
EARTH...

MORE SPECIFICALLY,  
THE BRADDOCK  
ESTATE IN ENGLAND.



THE FIRST THING  
YOU LEARN IS THAT  
YOU HAVE TO MOVE  
ON.

YOU'RE STILL YOU--  
YOU CAN'T DEFINE  
YOURSELF BY YOUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
SOMEONE ELSE.



... WHERE A TROUBLED  
WOMAN HAS LOST THE  
LOVE OF HER LIFE...  
AND HER SENSE OF SELF.

O'MON,  
MEGBAN,  
TALK TO  
ME...



I KNOW BRIAN  
ISN'T HERE ANYMORE,  
BUT... YOU HAVE TO  
GET ON WITH YOUR  
LIFE.



CAN YOU  
EVEN HEAR  
ME?



LOOK, I  
KNOW WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO  
LOSE SOME-  
ONE.



MEGBAN!  
PLEASE!  
SNAP OUT  
OF IT!







THE PROCESSING CENTER,  
NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO  
KROG, THE PAN-DIMEN-  
SIONAL PRISON LOCATED  
BENEATH THE PLANET'S  
SURFACE.

RACHEL...  
OBSERVE...

I SEE  
HER,  
KYLIN...

CAREFUL! WE DON'T  
WANT TO DRAW ATTENTION  
TO OURSELVES AFTER WE  
WENT THROUGH THE  
TROUBLE OF STEALING  
THESE ROBES.

... CERISE IS  
BEING SENT  
BELOW!

WHRRZZH

WE'RE TOO  
LATE!

STAY CALM,  
RACHEL...

... WE CAN DO  
CERISE MORE  
GOOD IF WE  
MAINTAIN OUR  
COVER...

YOU TWO--  
NO TALKING IN  
LINE!

RIGHT--  
LET'S SEE YOUR  
PAPERWORK!

DON'T WORRY,  
KYLIN...

... I SAW  
THIS IN A  
MOVIE  
ONCE.

YOU DO NOT  
NEED TO SEE  
OUR PAPERS.

EVERYTHING  
IS FINE.

WE ARE  
FREE TO  
PROCEED.



PERHAPS THEY  
ARE PROTECTED  
SOMEHOW  
FROM MENTAL  
MANIP..

NO, YOU'RE  
NOT.

NOW, ARE YOU  
HANDING OVER  
YOUR PAPER-  
WORK..

--OR DO I  
HAVE TO  
TEAR IT OFF  
YOU ?



IS  
THAT--?

CAN'T  
BE..

THE  
SYMBOL!  
DO YOU  
SEE IT?!

THAT'S IT!  
I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH OF  
YOUR--



YOU MAY BE  
RIGHT, KYLIN..  
OR THEY JUST  
DON'T GET  
HBO OUT  
HERE..

MEANWHILE, FAR ABOVE, THE STAR-JAWNER SETTLES INTO ORBIT...

-- BEING UNREASONABLE, MADAME EMPRESS! PROFESSOR XAVIER HAS VOUCHER FOR THIS YOUNG WOMAN'S INTEGRITY--

DO NOT TRY TO PUSH THAT BUTTON WITH ME, CORSAIR.

YOU USE STAR-JAWNERS LIKE PET DOGS, THEN GIVE US ROYAL--

PLEASE, HEPZIBAH, LET ME HANDLE THIS.

LILANDRA, IF YOU DON'T CAST SOME LIGHT ON THIS VERY QUESTIONABLE CONVICTION--

--AND GIVE ME AN IDEA WHY CERISE WOULD BE SO CONTENT TO ACCEPT IT--

-- I'LL HAVE TO ASK THE YOUNG WOMAN HERSELF.

IT WOULD NOT MATTER IF CHARLES WERE PERSONALLY APPEALING ON CERISE'S BEHALF...

... I WOULD NOT AND WILL NOT RE-TRY HER FOR THE HEINOUS CRIME SHE COMMITTED!

DO NOT OVERSTEP YOURSELF, CORSAIR. I HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW, WITHOUT YOUR MEDDLING.

WE HAVE AN ALLIANCE. DON'T MAKE ME FORGET THAT.

STARJAWNER OUT.

WE STAND READY  
FOR THY ORDER,  
CAPTAIN. WHAT BE  
THY PLAN NOW?



NOW...?

THIS!

CAPTAIN?!



OH, UH,  
HELLO.

WELL, WHAT  
HAVE WE HERE--  
STOWAWAYS!



HELLO, KURT.  
ENJOY THE  
TRIP, DID  
YOU?

NEVER MIND  
THAT, CORSAIR--  
YOU ALSO  
BELIEVE CERGSE  
IS INNOCENT,  
DON'T YOU?

I'M NOT  
SURE.

STARTAMMERS  
PREPARE TO BEAM  
DOWN.

WE'RE GOING  
TO FIND OUT  
THE TRUTH--  
NO MATTER  
WHAT THE  
COST!



...SHOW...  
ON...

HEY-- WHAT  
HAPPENED?

IT APPEARS THEY  
NO LONGER  
CONSIDER YOU  
WORTH FIGHTING  
OVER, RACHEL.



DO NOT TAKE  
OFFENSE, M'LADY...

...THERE ARE  
YET THOSE  
OF US WHO  
WOULD SOGLY  
DIE TO  
BEHOLD YOUR  
SHINING  
VISAGE!

WHA--  
RAZA?!



AYE,  
M'LADY.

SORRY WE'RE  
LATE, PHOENIX--  
WE CAME HERE  
AT TOP SPEED

JIA-- I  
MADE SURE  
OF THAT.



ALL OF WHICH  
BECAUSE THE  
QUESTION... NOW  
WHAT?



I CAN ONLY  
SPEAK FOR MYSELF,  
KYLIN...

... I AM GOING  
THROUGH THAT  
TRANSPORTER  
TO FIND CERISE.

THEN I'M GOING  
TO BRING HER BACK  
HOME-- KICKING  
AND SCREAMING,  
IF NECESSARY.



HERE, GUYAN,  
DON'T BE AFRAID  
TO Huddle A  
LITTLE CLOSER.

THESE IONIC  
WINDS CAN  
FREEZE YOUR  
GAMY OFF...

...AND I'M NOT  
REALLY THE COLD-  
BLOODED ASSASSIN  
EVERYONE HERE  
SEEMS TO THINK  
I AM.

VERY  
WELL...  
THANK  
YOU.

HOW  
EMOTIONALLY  
TOUCHING  
IT IS.



OBSERVE THE  
PUERILE AYIAN  
AND THE VENERABLE  
PRIMATE HUDDLED  
AGAINST THE  
ACRIMONIOUS  
ZEPHYRS!



MAKES YOU DESIROUS  
OF A VARIABLE  
ANATHEMAL TEMPER-  
TURE. AKIN TO MINE!  
SURELY? HA HA HA!



ATTENTION! ARE YOU NOT  
MARKENING WITH YOUR  
RESPECTIVE MUSCULAR  
APPARATUS??



I WILL NOT BE  
DISREGARDED WITH  
SUCH IMPUNITY,  
AGED BIMIAN!

AAIEE--



OWINK

PAFF



KRAKCH



KILLED  
HIM YOU  
DID.

HE MADE  
THE DECISION  
TO ATTACK  
CRYAN, NOT  
I.

NOW, THE  
REST OF  
YOU--BACK  
OFF, OR  
YOU'LL BE  
NEXT.



"BACKING  
OFF" WE ARE--  
BODY IS  
YOURS.

GREAT. THAT  
IS JUST WHAT  
WE NEED RIGHT  
NOW...



... A MANIACAL  
LIZARD'S DEAD  
BODY.



WAIT-- IS THIS THE  
PART WHERE I SCREAM  
"NO, DON'T KILL  
ME, I'M TOO  
YOUNG TO DIE" ?

IT MAY BE,  
FRIEND, IF YOU  
DON'T IMPROVE  
YOUR ATTITUDE  
AND START  
WORKING THOSE  
CONTROLS.

YES ! ITCHY  
TRIGGER FINGER  
IS MINE, BIG-  
EARS !

LOOK, I  
DON'T NEED  
YOUR  
THREATS...

... IF YOU WANT TO  
BEAM DOWN TO AN  
INEXCAPABLE  
HELLSTORM, WHO  
AM I TO STOP  
YOU ?

JUST GET ON  
THE PLATFORM  
AND I'LL SEND  
YOU DOWN.

AND YES, HUGE  
SMILING, CLIMB A  
WATCH WHERE  
YOU'RE STANDING  
THOSE BIG  
COMMENTS...

HMM, KURT-- BEFORE WE GO  
BELOW, THERE'S SOMETHING  
I THINK YOU-- AND EVERYONE  
ELSE-- SHOULD SEE BEFORE  
WE MAKE THIS TRIP.

GUARD, CALL UP  
THE EVIDENCE  
AGAINST PRISONER  
GERISE-- OR I'LL  
BLOW ANOTHER  
HOLE IN YOUR  
HEAD.

AGAIN  
WITH THE  
THREATS !

WAIT A  
SECOND--  
ALL RIGHT,  
HERE IT  
IS...

NAVIGATOR GRIEVE OF  
THE S.G.E. ENCRUIMENT  
SHIP... I... I TAKE  
FULL RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THE DEATH OF  
EVERY LIVING CREW-  
MEMBER ON THE SHIP.

WAB.?

...PERHAPS NO ONE  
WILL EVER FULLY  
UNDERSTAND WHAT  
I AM ABOUT TO DO...  
OR WHY...

...BUT I KNOW I'M  
RIGHT, AND I HOPE THAT  
SOMEWAY THE UNIVERSE  
WILL FIND IT IN ITS HEART  
TO FORGIVE ME...

...SOMEHOW...



THAT FINAL TRANS-  
MISSION WAS THE  
ONLY RECORD OF  
WHAT HAPPENED  
ABOARD THE EN-  
CRUIMENT SHIP,  
KURT.

CERIBE WAS TRIED IN  
ABSENTIA FOR TREASON  
AGAINST THE EMPIRE.  
EVERYONE ASSUMED SHE  
HAD DIED WITH THE REST  
OF THEM...

... UNTIL A FEW DAYS AGO,  
WHEN HER SHI'AR BIOIMPLANT  
REGISTERED HER EXISTENCE  
IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.



DO YOU THINK THIS  
CHANGES THE WAY  
I FEEL, CORSAIR?



I KNOW THIS  
WOMAN-- I  
KNOW SHE  
MUST HAVE  
HAD A  
REASON TO  
DO WHAT  
SHE DID...

AND NO ONE  
BUT CERIBE  
WILL BE ABLE  
TO TELL ME  
DIFFERENTLY!

NO, MEIN FREUND.  
I WILL NOT STOP  
UNTIL I'VE FOUND  
CERIBE...





"... NO MATTER  
WHERE SHE IS..."



"... NO MATTER  
WHAT STANDS  
IN MY WAY!"

**NEXT** CHOICES MADE,  
CHANCES LOST!



THE KASASHI  
RULING CITY--  
MINDLESSLY  
FIREBOMBER

THE PEOPLE--  
THE CHILDREN--  
CUT DOWN LIKE  
SO MUCH WHEAT.

IS THIS FOR  
THE COMMON  
GOOD? IS THIS--  
WHAT I AM?

SCOTT LOBBELL - STORY  
EVAN SMOLENICK - SCRIPT  
STEVE BUCCELLARO - PENCILS  
DOV HUDSON - INKS  
CHRIS ELIOPoulos - LETTERS  
STEVE BUCCELLARO - COLORS  
SUZANNE GAFFNEY - EDITS  
BOB HARRIS - GROUP EDITS  
JOHN DE VILCO - CHIEF



HEY, SOLDIER-  
GERSE, ISN'T  
IT?

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?  
SITTING?

YOU THINK 'CAUSE  
THIS IS YOUR FIRST  
ASSIGNMENT ABOARD  
AN ENCRUITMENT VESSEL  
OF THE GHRAAD THAT  
YOU CAN SLACK OFF?



SIR, IT WAS MY  
UNDERSTANDING  
THAT OUR SHIP  
WAS ON A  
CONVERSION  
MISSION...



...THAT OUR GOAL  
WAS TO RECRUIT  
MEMBERS OF THE  
OUTER REGIONS  
TO THE EMPIRE  
THROUGH EN-  
LIGHTENMENT...

HA HA HA  
HA HA! I  
LOVE IT!

YES, PRECIOUS,  
WE ARE CON-  
VERTING THESE  
SAVAGES TO THE  
WAYS OF THE  
SH'AR...

...AND I  
GUARANTEE  
YOU THAT  
WHOEVER  
SURVIVES WILL  
BE ONLY TOO  
HAPPY TO  
JOIN!



AND, ON THE PRISON PLANET...

SHE'S MINE!  
MY TICKET  
OFFA THIS  
ROCK!

FORGET  
IT! I'VE  
GOT HER!

I DON'T WANT  
TO HURT THESE  
PEOPLE...

--MOST ARE  
PROBABLY AS  
INNOCENT AS  
CERISE!

NOT TO WORRY,  
RACHEL...

...MY SWORDS  
WILL SEPARATE  
GOOD FROM  
EVIL...

AND I SUSPECT  
THERE IS PLENTY  
HERE TO BE  
SEPARATED!

Stop.

WHAT THE --?  
EVERYONE  
FROZE?

WATCH OUT,  
RACHEL -- HE'S  
REACHING FOR  
YOUR FACE!

